

Eighteenth Annual Forest Appreciation Week Writing Contest

Smokey says, “Be Careful with All Outdoor Fires”

Each year the Department of Natural Resources Forestry Division encourages fourth grade students across Wisconsin to think and write about our forest resources through the Forest Appreciation Week Writing Contest. This year’s theme Smokey says, “Be Careful with All Outdoor Fires” asks students to write about Smokey Bear’s fire safety messages. As we all know, fire is a necessary part of our lives. We use it for cooking and heating our water and homes. Fire can also be very destructive when not used properly. Please encourage your students to understand the nature of fire and to practice outdoor fire safety, and to safely celebrate our natural resources from Earth Day (April 22) to Arbor Day (April 27)! ***Students should become familiar with the story of Smokey Bear, write about why it is important to prevent wildfires and describe how they practice Smokey Bear’s outdoor fire safety rules.*** For inspiration check out the Smokey Bear website at <http://www.smokeybear.com>

Contest Requirements:



Fourth Grade Students Only



Submit **only one (1) entry** per classroom



Any written form, including essay, poetry or other type of creative writing is acceptable. The entry must be 200 words or less and follow the theme **Smokey says, “Be Careful with all Outdoor Fires.”**



Writing must be the original work of a student currently in fourth grade.



A participant report form must be attached to your classroom entry. Your classroom entry must be sent to the designated judging team coordinator listed in the 2007 writing contest packet. Note: Contest packets will be mailed to fourth grade teachers in late January.



A semi-finalist will be chosen from each CESA District and their essays will appear in the 2008 Arbor Day-Earth Day Calendar and on the WDNR Environmental Education for Kids website *EEK!*



A panel of judges from the Department of Natural Resources will review the 12 semi-finalists and select the top three state winners. The three state winners and their teachers will be recognized for their achievement at a special celebration in our state capitol. The students will be presented with savings bonds of \$100, \$75 and \$50 respectively. The Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association donates the awards. The students will also receive a landscape tree to be planted at their school or in their community, donated by the Wisconsin Nursery Association and their teachers will receive a scholarship for a Learning, Experience & Activities in Forestry (LEAF) teacher’s workshop plus additional classroom supplies. Parents, students and teachers will be honored.

Entries must be postmarked by March 9, 2007.

For more information contact: Forestry Week Writing Contest. Wisconsin DNR, Forestry Division, PO Box 7921, Madison WI 53707-7921 or email genny.fannucchi@dnr.state.wi.us